

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

### **A. Background**

*BLM Office: Wenatchee Field Office*

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.: WAW 02277-02 & 03*

*NEPA Log Number: OR 134-08-CX-046*

*Proposed Action Title:* Issuance of Temporary Use Permits to Williams NW Pipeline for Pipeline Maintenance Activities

*Location of Proposed Action:*

WAW 02277-02: Portion of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 24, T.21N., R.21E., WM, Chelan County

WAW 02277-03: Portion of N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 24, T.4N., R.20E., WM, Klickitat County

*Description of Proposed Action:* Williams NW Pipeline has applied for separate temporary use permits to allow them to complete pipeline maintenance on two sections of high pressure natural gas pipelines that cross BLM lands. Because potential corrosion problems were discovered by recent pipeline monitoring, Williams NW needs to uncover and recoat portions of the pipeline. This maintenance activity is required of Williams NW by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The temporary use areas are needed because the existing right-of-way limits (25' on each side of the pipeline centerline) are of insufficient size to allow the work that Williams NW envisions. The TUP permits would authorize use of areas outside the limits of their current 50 foot wide right-of-way to allow for equipment parking and maneuvering, and for soil spoil storage if needed.

The temporary use area for the WAW 02277-02 application comprises a 100' x 100' staging area and an adjoining 75' x 410' workspace (see attached map). These areas are directly adjacent to the north boundary of the existing pipeline right-of-way. Also needed is permission for temporary use of a 12' wide road (approximately 800' long) that accesses the site. In total 1.15 acres of land would be included in this permit.

For the WAW 02277-03 application, the temporary use area requested is comprised of adjoining 75' x 350' and 200' x' 200' work spaces directly adjacent to the southerly limit of the existing right-of-way. In total, 1.52 acres of land would be included in this permit.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

☒ *Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): The proposed action is subject to the Spokane District Resource Management Plan (1985) and Record of Decision (1987), and the 1992 RMP amendment and Record of Decision (ROD). Issuance of permits is listed under the heading "Administrative Actions" on page 5 (unnumbered) of the 1992 ROD.

OR

☐ *(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9E. (19)

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b> The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A portion of the BLM parcel located in Chelan County is within the Colockum Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which was designated for protection of the plant species "Astragalus sinuatis." Based on a field inspection conducted June 24, 2008, none of the plants appear to be located within the proposed temporary use area. Some plants are located within the R/W limits, however.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**F: Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorizing Official Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Name: Karen Kelleher  
Title: Wenatchee RA Field Manager

**G. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Bill Schurger

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.